

TO: MEG WILLIAMSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

FROM: WARREN FRACE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST
ALMOND GROWER'S WAREHOUSE / DERBY WINERY NATIONAL
HISTORIC REGISTER NOMINATION**

DATE: JANUARY 5, 2016

Needs: For the City Council to consider a letter to the State Historic Resources Commission supporting the National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Paso Robles Almond Growers Association Warehouse (Derby Winery).

Facts:

1. The "Almond Growers Association Warehouse," also known as the Farmer's Alliance and now the Derby Winery building is located at 525 Riverside Avenue.
2. In 2006 a Historic Evaluation concluded the Almond Growers Association Warehouse building, built in 1922 is a historic resource.
3. Derby Wine Estate acquired the building and proposed an adaptive reuse of the building consistent with the Secretary of Interior Standards for Historic Building.
4. The Derby Wine Estate's project consisted of restoring the exterior of the original building façade including: painting the exterior in the original color; replacing/repairing the existing windows to the original condition; restoring the historic lettering "Paso Robles Almond Growers Association Building" on the parapet; retaining the existing diamond frames and incorporate a new sign for Derby winery on the tower; retaining and utilizing the existing roll up doors; and reusing the existing loading dock along the front of the building.
5. Interior work included restoration of historic elements as recommended by the Historic Evaluation, and tenant improvements needed for the new winery use.
6. The Derby Wine Estate's project restored the architectural integrity and function of the building and returned the Almond Growers Association Warehouse back to its original purpose of agricultural production.
7. Ray and Pam Derby have applied to the State Historical Resources Commission to have the Almond Growers Association Warehouse included on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register).
8. The State Historic Resources Commission will be considered the application at a meeting in Sacramento on January 29, 2016.
9. The State Historic Resources Commission is soliciting public comment on this matter and has contacted the City of Paso Robles regarding the process.

10. Ray and Pam Derby have requested that the City provide a letter to the State Historic Resources Commission supporting the nomination.

Analysis and Conclusion:

As documented in the **National Register of Historic Places** nomination forms, the Almond Growers Association Warehouse represents an important historic legacy to the City of Paso Robles' agricultural heritage and provides a significant architectural landmark along US 101.

The Almond Growers Association Warehouse (Warehouse) was built to support the local almond industry that thrived in Paso Robles in the early 1920's. After the 1940's, the local almond industry faded away and the Warehouse became neglected. In 2006 the City took action to prevent the demolition of the Warehouse and then worked cooperatively with the current owners, Ray and Pam Derby to support the rehabilitation of the building into the Derby Winery. The completed rehabilitation of the Warehouse was conducted consistent with Secretary of the Interiors Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Today, the Derby Winery stands as a wonderful example of Historic Preservation as the Warehouse has been repurposed from once serving the local almond industry, to now serving the thriving local wine industry. The Derby's are requesting the City submit a letter to the State Historic Resources Commission supporting the nomination.

Policy

Reference: 11/25/15 National Historic Register Nomination, 6/23/06 Historic Evaluation.

Fiscal

Impact: None.

Options:

The City Council may consider the following options:

- a) Move to support the Mayor's signature of a letter to the State Historic Resources Commission supporting the nomination of the Almond Growers Association Warehouse for the National Historic Register; or,
- b) Amend, modify or reject the foregoing option.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1: Draft Letter of Support to the State Historic Resources Commission



OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

"The Pass of the Oaks"

January 5, 2016

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation, Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd St., Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Re: **City of Paso Robles Letter of Support
National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Paso Robles Almond Growers Association
Warehouse**

Dear Ms. Polanco:

On behalf of the City of Paso Robles, I am pleased to support the **National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Paso Robles Almond Growers Association Warehouse**. As documented in the nomination forms, the Almond Growers Association Warehouse represents an important historic legacy to the City of Paso Robles' agricultural heritage and is significant architectural landmark along US 101.

The Almond Growers Association Warehouse (Warehouse) was built to support the local almond industry that thrived in Paso Robles in the early 1920's. After the 1940's, the local almond industry faded away and the Warehouse became neglected. In 2006 the City took action to prevent the demolition of the Warehouse and then worked cooperatively with the current owners, Ray and Pam Derby to support the rehabilitation of the building into the Derby Winery. The completed rehabilitation of the Warehouse was conducted consistent with Secretary of the Interiors Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Today, the Derby Winery stands as a wonderful example of Historic Preservation as the Warehouse has been repurposed from once serving the local almond industry, to now serving the thriving local wine industry.

Sincerely,

Steve Martin, Mayor
City of Paso Robles